

## DEPARTMENT OF STATE REVENUE

**Commissioner's Directive #30**  
**October 2013**  
**(Replaces Directive #30 Dated February 2010)**  
**Effective Date July 1, 2013**

**SUBJECT:** Local Food and Beverage Taxes

**REFERENCE:** [IC 6-9-12](#); [IC 6-9-20](#); [IC 6-9-21](#); [IC 6-9-23](#); [IC 6-9-24](#); [IC 6-9-25](#); [IC 6-9-26](#); [IC 6-9-27](#); [IC 6-9-33](#); [IC 6-9-35](#); [IC 6-9-36](#); [IC 6-9-38](#); [IC 6-9-40](#); [IC 6-9-41](#); [IC 6-9-43](#); [IC 6-9-44](#)

**DISCLAIMER:** Commissioner's directives are intended to provide nontechnical assistance to the general public. Every attempt is made to provide information that is consistent with the appropriate statutes, rules, and court decisions. Any information that is not consistent with the law, regulations, or court decisions is not binding on either the department or the taxpayer. Therefore, the information provided herein should serve only as a foundation for further investigation and study of the current law and procedures related to the subject matter covered herein.

### SUMMARY OF CHANGES

Aside from nonsubstantive, technical changes, this version of the directive has been changed from the previous version to include the new food and beverage taxes authorized for Steuben County and Monroe County, as well as the towns of Cloverdale and Fishers.

### INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this directive is to assist retail merchants in the proper application of the food and beverage tax. Generally, in counties or municipalities that adopt a food and beverage tax, the rate is 1% of the gross retail income received from taxable food and beverage transactions. In some instances where **both a county and municipality within the county** have adopted the food and beverage tax, the total tax rate for a taxable transaction inside the municipality is 2%.

### LOCATION OF TRANSACTION

The food and beverage tax applies only to transactions that take place in a county or municipality that adopts the tax. With regard to retail merchants that cater, the tax is not based on where the retail merchant is located. Rather, the tax is based on where the catering is provided. A retail merchant that caters in counties or municipalities that have not adopted the tax will not collect the tax on transactions in those counties and municipalities.

### TRANSACTIONS SUBJECT TO TAX

The food and beverage tax applies to any transaction in which food or beverage is furnished, prepared, or served by a retail merchant for consumption at a location or on equipment provided by the retail merchant in a county or municipality that adopts the tax.

"For consumption at a location or on equipment provided by the retail merchant" includes transactions in which food or beverage is (1) served by a retail merchant off the merchant's premises, (2) sold in a heated state or heated by a retail merchant, (3) made of two or more food ingredients, mixed or combined by a retail merchant for sale as a single item (other than food that is only cut, repackaged, or pasteurized by the seller and eggs, fish, meat, poultry, and foods containing these raw animal foods requiring cooking by the consumer as recommended by the federal Food and Drug Administration), or (4) food sold with eating utensils provided by a retail merchant, including plates, knives, forks, spoons, glasses, cups, napkins, or straws. A container or package used to transport the food is not considered a plate.

Taxable transactions include:

- Food sold and served by a retail merchant that is performing catering activities;
- Food sold at a deli counter in a grocery store that is cooked or heated on the premises of the retail merchant; and
- Where the seller provides eating utensils, including plates, knives, forks, spoons, glasses, cups, napkins, or straws.

Transactions not subject to tax include:

- Sales of food that is only cut, repackaged, or pasteurized by the seller; and

- Sales of eggs, fish, meat, and poultry requiring cooking by the consumer.

### EXEMPT TRANSACTIONS

The food and beverage tax does not apply to the sale of food and beverages if the transaction is exempt from the sales tax.

### COLLECTION AND REMITTANCE OF THE TAX

The food and beverage tax is imposed, paid, and collected in the same manner as the sales tax. The filing of the return and the remittance of the tax collected are due 30 days after the end of the month in which the transaction occurs. The return for the food and beverage tax is a separate return from the sales and use tax return. A retailer that is required to collect and remit the tax may file a consolidated food and beverage tax return if the retailer operates multiple locations in the same county. A separate return is required to be filed by the retailer if the retailer has locations in different adopting counties.

The retailer is required to file a separate return if the retail establishment is located in a municipality inside a county where both units of government have adopted a food and beverage tax.

With the exception of Johnson County, all tax returns and remittances for the food and beverage tax are required to be filed with the Indiana Department of Revenue. Johnson County has passed an ordinance to have the tax remitted to the county treasurer. The following counties and municipalities have enacted food and beverage taxes at the following rates. **NOTE:** The total rate that applies to a transaction is the county rate plus the municipal rate, if applicable. For example, the total food and beverage tax rate for a transaction occurring in Carmel is 2%. The rate is based on Hamilton County's rate of 1% plus Carmel's rate of 1%.

### UNITS IMPOSING THE FOOD AND BEVERAGE TAX

County	Rate	Effective Date
Allen County	1%	July 1986
Boone County	1%	August 2005
Delaware County	1%	August 1986
Hamilton County	1%	August 2005
Hancock County	1%	August 2005
Hendricks County	1%	August 2005
Henry County	1%	October 1987
Johnson County	1%	August 2005 (collected by county treasurer)
Madison County	1%	February 1989
Marion County	2%	July 1981 and July 2005 (rate increase)
Monroe County	1%	Authorized March 13, 2009*
Shelby County	1%	August 2005
Steuben County	1%	Authorized March 19, 2008*
Vanderburgh County	1%	August 1985

Municipality	Municipality Rate	Effective Date	County	County Rate	Total Rate
Avon	1%	July 2005	Hendricks	1%	2%
Brownsburg	1%	August 1995	Hendricks	1%	2%
Carmel	1%	August 2005	Hamilton	1%	2%
Cloverdale	1%	September 1, 2013	Putnam	n/a	1%
Fishers	n/a	Authorized July 1, 2013*	Hamilton	1%	1%
Lebanon	1%	November 2005	Boone	1%	2%
Martinsville	1%	July 2005	Morgan	n/a	1%
Mooreville	1%	August 1990	Morgan	n/a	1%
Nashville	1%	July 1987	Brown	n/a	1%
Noblesville	1%	August 2005	Hamilton	1%	2%
Plainfield	1%	August 1995	Hendricks	1%	2%
Shipshewana	1%	July 1990	LaGrange	n/a	1%
Westfield	1%	August 2005	Hamilton	1%	2%

Indiana Register

Zionsville	1%	November 2005	Boone	1%	2%
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\*As of the date of publication of this directive, food and beverage taxes have been authorized, but not yet imposed, in this county.

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Michael J. Alley  
Commissioner

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